

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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TAGS: PORG, PGOV, UK, VI
SUBJ: COMMITTEE OF 24 (C-24) : BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS AND
BULGARIAN REQUEST

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: AT THE MORNING MEETING OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON SMALL TERRITORIES OF THE C-24 ON FEBRUARY 17, CHILE, BULGARIA AND INDIA MADE STATEMENTS CONCERNING THE BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS (BVI) AND BULGARIA MADE TWO PROPOSALS.

2. CHILEAN MISOFF (MONSALVE) COMMENTED ON THE NEED TO DEVELOP A VIABLE ECONOMY IN THE BVI BEFORE FURTHER CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT CAN TAKE PLACE. NOTING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE BVI AND USVI, HE SAID A "POSSIBLE FUTURE POLITICAL ALTERNATIVE" LINKING THE TWO SHOULD NOT BE DISCOUNTED OUT OF HAND. HE RECOMMENDED THAT OTHER POSSIBLE SOURCES OF INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT BESIDES TOURISM BE ENCOURAGED BECAUSE TOURISM IS SO SUSCEPTIBLE TO OUTSIDE FACTORS; THE UPS AND DOWNS IN THE USVI DUE TO A DECREASE IN TOURISM ARE AN EXAMPLE.

3. INDIAN MISOFF EMPHASIZED THE INTERDEPENDENCE OF THE
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"REGIONAL ECONOMY" AND CALLED FOR GREATER ASSISTANCE TO THE BVI BY UN ORGANS. SHE SAID INDIA CANNOT ACCEPT THE BVI GOVERNOR'S CONTENTION THAT FURTHER CONSTITUTIONAL PROGRESS IS NOT POSSIBLE UNTIL ECONOMIC VIABILITY HAS BEEN ACHIEVED.

4. NEYTCHEV (BULGARIA) WAS VERY CRITICAL OF THE OPENING STATEMENT BY THE UK, ASKED WHEN THE BVI WILL BECOME

INDEPENDENT, CRITICIZED THE ADMINISTERING POWER FOR NOT MAKING ENOUGH EFFORTS TO DEVELOP A VIABLE ECONOMY, REQUESTED FURTHER INFORMATION ON MINERAL RESOURCES AND ASKED WHY 2/5 OF THE ARABLE LAND IS STILL THE DOMAIN OF THE BRITISH CROWN.

5. NEYTCHEV ALSO MADE TWO REQUESTS TO THE SECRETARIAT: 1) FOR A LIST OF TERRITORIES IN WHICH MILITARY ACTIVITIES AND FOREIGN ECONOMIC INTERESTS ARE OPERATING AND 2) A LIST OF TERRITORIES WHICH ARE EXPECTED TO ACCEDE TO INDEPENDENCE IN 1978, WITH SPECIFIC DATES WHERE POSSIBLE. END UNCLASSIFIED.

4. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE: COMMENT: THE BULGARIAN REQUEST FOR A LIST OF TERRITORIES WHERE MILITARY ACTIVITIES AND FOREIGN ECONOMIC INTERESTS ARE OPERATING IS IN LINE WITH USUAL PROCEDURE, SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS INFORM US. THE REQUEST FOR A LIST OF TERRITORIES WHICH WILL ACCEDE TO INDEPENDENCE IS REMINISCENT OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION WHICH SURFACED BRIEFLY AT THE 32ND GA CALLING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TIMETABLE FOR INDEPENDENCE FOR NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES AND MAY BE DESIGNED TO LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR REEMERGENCE OF SUCH AN INITIATIVE. END COMMENT. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.

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